

## A NEW COMBINATION IN ASIMINA

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**Asimina pulchella** (Small) comb. nov.

*Deeringothamnus pulchellus* Small in Bull. Torrey Bot. Club **51**: 390 (1924).

*Asimina pulchella* (Small) G. A. Zimmermann in Jour. Hered. **32**: 89 (1941) "*A. pulchellus*"; nomen. — Kelsey & Dayton, Standard. Pl. Names, ed. 2, 24, 257, 468 (1942), nomen.

The genus *Deeringothamnus*, typified by his *D. pulchellus*, was proposed by the late Dr. John K. Small in 1924, being separated from *Asimina* by "the dimorphous stems, the flat or depressed receptacle, and the narrow nearly uniform unsculptured petals." Later (in *Addisonia* **15**: 17, 1930), Small transferred *Asimina Rugelii* Robins. to *Deeringothamnus*. Both species are shrubs of the Florida flatwoods, not over 2 ft. high, with fusiform roots, persistent aromatic leaves, very fragrant flowers, and linear petals.

It seems probable that the majority of botanists, as well as horticulturists and other workers with plants, will prefer to regard these two dwarf pawpaws as belonging to the genus *Asimina*, since the characters by which Small separated *Deeringothamnus* do not seem to be important enough for generic distinction. They were treated as species of *Asimina* in the *Journal of Heredity* (l.c.) by the late Dr. G. A. Zimmermann of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, probably the outstanding American authority on the horticulture and genetics of this genus, as well as by Kelsey and Dayton in their *Standardized Plant Names* (l.c.). Miss Doris W. Hayes, of the U. S. Forest Service, who has in manuscript a proposed publication on the records of the Edison Botanic Research Corporation, informs us that the late Thomas A. Edison, in his researches on native United States plants as possible sources of emergency rubber, made three routine chemical tests of *Asimina pulchella* but with negative results. Unfortunately, use of the combination *Asimina pulchella* has hitherto been illegitimate, the requirements of Art. 44(2) of the International Rules not having previously been met.

Small's type of *Deeringothamnus pulchellus* was collected by him in 1923 "in the uninhabited wilderness between Punta Gorda and Fort Myers," De Soto County, Florida. This would appear to be in what is now known either as Charlotte or Lee Counties. Harold N. Moldenke collected the species (*Moldenke 930*) on Big Pine Island, Lee County, Florida, in 1930. Miss Hayes advises us that the Edison collection above referred to was made in the spring of 1928 near Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, by unspecified collector(s) of the Edison Botanic Research Corporation.

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